ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to prevent degradation of speech recognition accuracy due to an unknown word, a dictionary database has stored therein a word dictionary in which are stored, in addition to words for the objects of speech recognition, suffixes, which are sound elements and a sound element sequence, which form the unknown word, for classifying the unknown word by the part of speech thereof. Based on such a word dictionary, a matching section connects the acoustic models of an sound model database, and calculates the score using the series of features output by a feature extraction section on the basis of the connected acoustic model. Then, the matching section selects a series of the words, which represents the speech recognition result, on the basis of the score.